

Dear Honorable Members of the Select Committee on Children,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB12-5184, AAC Dissection Choice.

When my father died unexpectedly in the fall of 1982, I was a sophomore in high school, in the top 10% of my class. Because of his death, I missed a few days of school and as a consequence missed the dissection of a rat in Biology class and never had to make it up. I hadn't discussed it with anyone, but I was really distressed about the prospect of dissecting that rat. 30 years ago I was unaware that anyone besides myself might be ethically troubled and nauseated by that requirement and I certainly didn't think the teacher might allow me to make other arrangements—I just assumed my grade would suffer if I didn't do as the curriculum required. It's strange to think that despite dealing with my father's death, one of the things that still sticks in my mind is that I was so relieved that I didn't have to cut open an animal that had been raised for the purpose of being killed. My nascent concern for animals as a young teen grew into a lifetime of animal advocacy.

I'm pleased to hear that HB12-5184 is being considered and that if passed, Connecticut will encourage the integration of educationally-superior, humane learning methods in science curricula. I am pleased that society is progressing on this issue and that the Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support dissection choice policies. Now that I am a parent, I am hopeful that this law will be in effect for my son so that when the time comes, he can learn about anatomy and get a good grade without having to go against his conscience.

Please vote in favor of An Act Concerning Dissection Choice (HB12-5184). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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